‘Night of Glass’ recollected

Professor speaks on Holocaust

By RANDY JACOBS
Lantern staff writer

People must keep the memory of the German Holocaust alive to help prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future, said Dr. Dagmar Lorenz, associate professor of German.

Lorenz spoke Monday about the history of Crystal Night and other events of the Holocaust. Crystal Night, or the night of broken glass, describes the reflection of millions of glass crystals in the streets of Germany on the night of November 9, 1938. The glass was from the windows of shops, department stores, houses and apartments owned by Jews, that were smashed by a mob of government agents. There were 36 people killed on that night.

Lorenz, who was born in Germany in 1948, said many Germans do not currently understand the everyday legacy of the Nazi past, and the burden it puts on them.

“This is especially true of people who claim they have heard enough about the Holocaust,” Lorenz said. “This claim is typically made by people who really know nothing about it.”

Liz Szames, chairman of Holocaust Survivors on Campus, said it is important to educate people about the Holocaust.

“People need to understand what went on during that time,” Szames said. “It is important for everyone, not just Jews, to understand this because similar things could happen to any person. There is a lesson to be learned from it.”

Lorenz said that when she went to school in Germany during the 1950s and 60s, she was never taught about the Holocaust.

“In the schools at that time, our history lessons ended in 1918,” she said. “The few reports I did hear about it away from school were often exaggerated. The only time you really ever heard anything was informally from people just talking in the streets.”

Lorenz said since she is a teacher of German culture and literature, she feels she must teach about the Holocaust.

“I could not possibly teach anything about the 20th century without talking about the Holocaust,” she said. “I think it is the single most important event in the history of Germany and Austria whether they like it or not. It is not a glorious event, but if it is forgotten, people will never be able to come to terms with it.”

There have been some other events that have worried Lorenz in the past.

“I think the fact that Kurt Waldheim was elected by the Austrians after it was made public to them that he was a former Nazi is very scary,” she said. “He was just a small petty little officer, but it is what he became as a symbol that I find very disturbing. I was in Austria at the time and then I left. I doubt that I will ever return as long as he is in office.”

The history of the Holocaust is being taught now more than ever before in Germany, Lorenz said.

“There is still a lot of denying that it had any impact,” she said. “It is still considered something that was a complete accident. Many people are still wondering how it ever happened.”
Jews observe ‘Krystallnacht’

Speakers at Oval ceremony discuss varied aspects, effects of Holocaust

By Michele Ohl
Lantern staff writer

Fifty years ago, the nightmare later known as the Holocaust began with the shattering of shop windows and the burning of synagogues.

During Krystallnacht, or Crystal Night, Nov. 9-10, 1938, 30,000 Jews were arrested, most of whom were sent to concentration camps. By the end of the Holocaust, an estimated 6 million Jews were killed.

The anniversary of this event will be observed at 6 p.m. Wednesday on the Oval. Three speakers from different generations will speak about how they have dealt with the suffering the Jewish race endured during the Holocaust.

A concentration-camp survivor, the son of a survivor and a Jew not directly affected by the Holocaust will speak at the event. Sue Lipken, director of student activities for the Jewish Student Activities Board of Hillel Foundation, said the name Crystal Night came from shop windows that were broken by Nazis.

Synagogues and businesses were burned and destroyed. Lipken said 18 people were killed, and historians agree Crystal Night was the first major step to annihilate European Jews.

Heidi Hes, a member of the Children of Holocaust Survivors, a group involved with marking the anniversary, said the remembrance will be open to the public. Hes, a junior from Toledo, said

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the organizers expect about 50 people to attend the event, some will be OSU history majors.

Hes said the first speaker will be George Spiegel. His father survived the Holocaust, and Spiegel will talk about what it was like to grow up in a home where the Holocaust was never discussed.

Another speaker, Kevin Levine, an OSU student from Euclid, will talk about how his family approached the Holocaust without any of the family members having been involved.

The third speaker will be a victim of the Holocaust. He and his daughter will talk about how their family discussed the Holocaust openly in their household.

Hes said the anniversary will be marked by the symbolic breaking of glass and the burning of a fire sign — a Jewish star of barbed wire and cloth.
Vigil honors Holocaust victims

By Melissa Eisen
Lantern staff writer

Leopold Katz, Ruth Lilienfield, Marie Preller...

OSU students stood in the mist on a gray Monday and read the names of Jews killed in the Holocaust.

They read the names from a stack of papers as thick as a phone book and with print as small. The stack was tied down with string to keep it from blowing away in the wind.

It was only a partial list of the 6 million Jews who were killed by the Nazis.

Reading the names was part of the second annual memorial vigil sponsored by the Children of Holocaust Survivors.

The 24-hour vigil began Monday on the west end of the Oval and ended today at noon with a memorial prayer. Today is Yom Ha'Shoah, the day of mourning for the victims of the Holocaust.

Memorial candles were distributed throughout the campus area and lit at sundown Monday, said 21-year-old organizer Hedi Has.

Liba Mann, Herbert Markus, Jacob Lorber...

The list of names was compiled mostly by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in New York City. Some of the names read were relatives of Jewish people in the campus community.

Local Jewish residents were mailed forms from the Children of Holocaust Survivors to fill out the names of their family members who died in the Holocaust.

Hes said someone walked up to her on Monday and asked her why she couldn’t just forget the Holocaust.

Hes said she told him her father had to go into hiding when he was 10 years old and lost most of his childhood.

"Could you forget it?" Hes said.

Five million non-Jewish people were also killed during the Holocaust. Hes said it is because of people who think the Holocaust should be forgotten that we must remember it.

OSU senior David Bernstein said, "There are some people who deny that the Holocaust happened, and we need to keep the Holocaust alive in people’s memory."

Some of the names OSU Junior Daniel Rose read belonged to his relatives. He said the emotions he felt carried over as he went through the rest of the list and he got more involved as he read.

Stephanie Friedman happened to get the names that began with

the letter F. The freshman from Cleveland majoring in Jewish studies who helped organize the ceremony said she could have been reading the names of her own relatives.

"It spooked me," she said. "It was eerie to go down and read your last name."

Hes said individuals from seven fraternities and sororities, the Residence Hall Advisory Council, the Stadium Dames, Hilal Foundation and high school youth groups were among those who read names.

Robert Donath, Amelia Pfeiffer, Walter Moller...

One student walked up and asked Hes if he could look at the D’s in the stack. He checked the names to see if any family members were on the list.

Theoum Phoung and Saveth Sin, both freshmen from Cambodia, stopped as they were passing by. Only 10 years ago, Pol Pot’s soldiers killed millions of Cambodians.

“I don’t want to see it again,” Sin said.

Other students paused and read

the captions on photographs hung around the tent near the podium.

There were pictures of Jews being herded to extermination camps, forced to undress and gassed.

There were pictures of the gas chambers, the burning bodies and mass graves.

And there was a picture of an emaciated young concentration camp inmate whose gender is indistinguishable because of a shaved head.

One million of the victims were children.

Hans Porges, Ema Lerner, Hersch Nobel...
Holocaust recalled by group

By Dona S. Klinger
Lantern staff writer

A series of activities will begin today to pay tribute to Holocaust victims when OSU's Children of Holocaust Survivors holds its annual Holocaust Remembrance Day.

According to a press release, the program will begin with a 24-hour vigil on the Oval at noon.

Michael Landy, program director at the Hillel Foundation, said there will be a display around the Oval consisting of Holocaust posters. The posters will lead people to the Oval's center where the vigil will be held under a tent.

CHS is a group of about 40 students associated with the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation at Ohio State.

The vigil will involve 120 students, staff, faculty and a wide range of organizations and churches who will read the names of Holocaust victims, Landy said. This is the fifth year for the annual program.

People should remember the Holocaust because of its racism and hate, Landy said. These are two problems that exist today. By remembering the Holocaust, people can realize where these problems could lead.

Professor Stephen Steinlight, director of Educational Outreach for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington, D.C., will lecture Wednesday on "Reflections on the Holocaust," according to the release.

The finale to the commemoration will be a campus-wide light ceremony, where a memorial candle will be lit at sundown. Landy said the candle is lit in Judaism to mark a death.

He said the candle will remain lit for 24 hours. The group cannot recognize individual deaths, but the one candle will recognize deaths of all victims.

The date of the vigil also coincides with the date of the Warsaw, Poland, ghetto uprising, Landy said. This date is recorded from the Hebrew calendar. Since the calendar is always changing, the date of the vigil differs from year to year.
Jews recall Holocaust; speaker dispels myth

By Todd Harrell
Lantern staff writer

Yom HaShoah. In the Hebrew language this term means 'day of the fire.' But to millions of Jews in America this word has come to mean and represent the Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In memory of the millions of people who were systematically exterminated and oppressed during Nazi-ruled Europe, the Children of Holocaust Survivors held its annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration this week.

As a part of the commemoration, a 24-hour vigil was held on the Oval from noon Tuesday to noon Wednesday in which a pictorial exhibit entitled "Courage to Remember" was on display. A podium was set up where names of thousands of Holocaust victims were read continuously by individuals of various organizations.

"We have a task before us — of telling future generations of what happened in the past, so that it may never happen again," said Professor Stephen Steinlight, director of Educational Outreach for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington D.C.

Steinlight gave a lecture entitled "Reflections on the Holocaust" to about 40 people on campus Wednesday night. The lecture and the succeeding campus-wide candlelight ceremony capped off the two-day commemoration.

Mostly students attended Steinlight's speech at the Ohio Union Conference Theatre, and the theme of his speech was Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.

"Few myths are more prevalent than the myth that Jews did not resist when the Germans came to take them away to the dreaded concentration camps," Steinlight said.

Drawing his conclusions from documented testimony and facts, Steinlight sighted several cases where Jews who had almost nothing to fight with did indeed resist.

"The Jewish people's goal, at least in the beginning, was just simple survival," Steinlight said. "But as more Jews were deported to the camps day-by-day, resistance started to grow."

Steinlight mentioned cases of Jewish uprisings that took place from 1941-1944 across Europe. In June of 1943, at Auschwitz, the most notorious of Hitler's death camps where more than 2 million people where murdered, Jewish captives in a rage attacked and killed eight guards before they themselves were killed.

Steinlight also said the resistance was more than violent, uprising nature, because the Jews were deprived of education and culture. An underground networking of school books, newspapers, and rationed food were circulated daily throughout the Jewish ghettos.

Chanukah continued to be celebrated by some even though the lawbreakers would face death from the Nazi police squads scamming the city if they were caught.

Perhaps the most famous resistance that occurred, and the incident that this 'day of remembrance' is in honor of, was the uprising where a group of Jews banded together to hold off the onslaught of Nazi soldiers who were surrounding the city of Warsaw, Poland. The Jews, who killed 1,000 Nazi soldiers, held them off for more than a month. Nevertheless, the Jews were later captured and executed.

"They were overwhelmed and knew all along that they most likely would not win, but they also understood that at least they had to go down fighting," Steinlight said.

Finally in April of 1945, the first of the concentration camps was liberated when American soldiers took control of Europe.

Although Steinlight had no immediate family members involved in the Holocaust, he feels propelled to go across the country to lecture on the Holocaust so that people will never forget.

"Maybe I have no right to talk about this, but I do feel like I have a need to speak about it," said Steinlight. "I am just an ordinary American Jew."

Steinlight is a graduate from New York University in Shakespearean English and has been working with the U.S. Memorial Council for the past six months.

"The Memorial Council is a Federal Institution that focuses on the Jewish experience from 1933-1945. It also is starting to become a center for research, mainly for the Jewish culture but not just that culture," Steinlight said.
Holocaust recalled in symposium

By Chris Davey
Lantern staff writer

A panel of four experts in Holocaust research presented a symposium on Sunday in the Upper Arlington municipal center in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Week. Each speaker stressed that the atrocities committed by the Nazis must never be forgotten.

Participating in the symposium were OSU faculty members; Dagmar Lorenz, professor of German, Alan Beyerchen, associate professor of history, Simon Dinitz, professor emeritus of sociology, and the Rev. Walter Bauman, professor of theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

OSU President E. Gordon Gee introduced speakers and expressed his pleasure that the university was able to help sponsor the event.

The symposium was held in conjunction with an art exhibit by Sidney Chaletz, OSU art professor emeritus.

The exhibit titled “The Perpetrators,” opened in the municipal center on Sunday.

The ramifications of the Holocaust may never be comprehended and it must never be forgotten, Gee said.

He said that people might “fall prey to the claim that it never happened. We cannot, and certainly, we will not be a part of the new breed of perpetrators,” Gee said.

Lorenz spoke about the social, cultural and political conditions present in Germany that gave rise to Nazism.

Many people do not realize that there were millions of German citizens who were collaborators and participants in the Nazi regime and its atrocities, Lorenz said.

“Contrary to the soothing notion that Nazi Germany and Austria were coerced by a few madmen, who hypnotized and controlled the people, willing masses followed the commands of the Fuhrer,” she said.

Lorenz said neo-Nazi sentiments and renewed white-supremacism surfacing in Europe are disturbing signs that the lessons of the Holocaust have not been learned.

“Equally disturbing is the growing popularity of extremism in the mind-set of the European and American mainstream,” she said.

“When Ronald Reagan visited a German military cemetery where members of the SS were buried, he was hailed by the German public,” she said.

The Holocaust followed a pattern of development starting with sterilization programs, progressing through euthanasia program, and finally culminating in the mass concentration and extermination programs, Beyerchen said.

Beyerchen said the most striking aspect of the Nazis’ methods was that almost everything they did was technically within the letter of the law. “One way that the Nazis would kill people without breaking the law was to strip them of their citizenship,” he said.

By exporting German Jews out of the country, they would technically not be citizens and thereby not be protected by the laws of the land, he said.

Bauman spoke about the reactions of the German religious community to the Holocaust. He said very few churches and religious leaders expressed overt opposition to the actions of the Nazis; he concluded that “there is an incalculable danger in the mix of religion and nationalism.”

Bauman said it is important not only that people remember the horrors of the Holocaust, but they be aware that it is all too easy to allow themselves to be oblivious to the actions of their own government around the world today.
Holocaust victims recognized with candlelight vigil

By Stacey Silver
Lantern staff writer

“Never forget and never again” was the theme commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The OSU Hillel Foundation observed the day, Yom HaShoah, with memorial candles and a vigil on the Oval. The vigil lasted from noon Wednesday until noon Thursday.

Michael Landy, Hillel program director, said having the vigil on the Oval was planned for specific reasons. The Oval is a central well-traveled location for everyone to see, he said.

“This isn’t a Jewish program. It is a program that Jews put together because if any group was victimized by the Holocaust, it was the Jews,” Landy said.

The names of the victims of the Holocaust were read during the 24-hour candlelight vigil.

Landy said there were five million other victims of mass extermination besides Jews in concentration and death camps that people need to remember as well.

Included were: gays and lesbians, handicapped and disabled people, political prisoners, Gypsies and Russian soldiers, said Landy.

“I think the number of names being read for 24 hours straight has a large impact on the people that attend the vigil, because in all those hours not even half of the victims are read,” said Michelle Kaye, a junior from Chicago.

Kaye said the vigil makes you think of how it was for all those innocent people and how it never should be again.

“Remembering the Holocaust is a way for us to say if we forget about this, we forget about hate at its most dangerous state,” Landy said.

In general, any group that is different faces hate, prejudice and bigotry by those people enforcing the hatred, he said.

A picture display called “Courage to Remember” accompanied the vigil.

Jacob Dobree, coordinator of the vigil, said the amount of people that came to the vigil was great. “I think it’s important that all people come by and remember, not just Jewish people. We have to educate everyone,” Dobree said.

Josh Lakes, an OSU student from Cleveland, said the pictures were extremely dramatic and made people stop to ask what was going on.

“A lot of the pictures were taken by German army officers who were proud of what they were doing,” Lakes said.

“Being at such a large university and being a Jewish student at such a large university makes me glad there are organizations who take time to help others remember about the Holocaust,” said Ken Blaustein, a freshman from Long Island, New York.
Remembering the Holocaust

OSU President Gee and Jacob Dobres, a sophomore from Mayfield Heights majoring in political science, read from a list of concentration camp victims Thursday during a 24 hour remembrance vigil.
Former Klansman admits shame and disgrace

By Harrison L. Page
Lantern staff writer

Tom Martinez admits he messed up his life. Martinez is a former Klansman.

"I'm ashamed to say, I'm sad to say, I didn't dislike black people. I hated all black people. I accused a whole entire race for a handful of punks," Martinez said.

Martinez, who said he had never heard of the Holocaust until he joined the Ku Klux Klan, spoke to more than 100 people on Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, at Ohio State.

Martinez explained that while attending Thomas Edison High School, in Philadelphia, an African American gang member stabbed a classmate to death. He said after the incident he dropped out of school. He said these incidents led to his involvement with the KKK, the National Alliance and the Order.

"Society creates racism," Martinez said. "I didn't just come out of my mother's womb wearing a Ku Klux Klan sheet, or a swastika, or hating Jews, or hating blacks. Things happened in Tom Martinez's life."

Martinez said the turning point was hearing David Duke on television. Duke said he was concerned about the white, working class men in this country. Martinez believed Duke.

In 1975, Martinez joined a Klan group in Philadelphia.

"If you had told me on that day that I'd be involved in a terrorist organization, who actually did assassination, armored car robbery, bank robbery and bombings, I'd said you been smoking. I'm just in it for the white, working class people," Martinez said.

Martinez said he met Bob Mathews of The National Alliance in 1980 at a convention of white supremacist groups in Virginia.

He said he left the KKK for the alliance.

In 1984, the Secret Service arrested Martinez for accepting counterfeit money from Mathews, he said. He received three years probation.

"A handful of followers with brown shirts adopted national socialism. Jews and Gentiles and the communists would laugh at them, when they would stand on the corner handing their literature out," Martinez warned.

Many people see the Klan on TV, swinging their cone heads, their swastikas or their shaved heads and just laugh, he said.

"You think they're silly. They're crazy," Martinez said.
HOLOCAUST REVISIONISM: PROPAGANDA IN DISGUISE

Scholars agree that historical revisionism can sometimes go astray. Recent controversy centers on what Joseph H. Lynch calls “revisionism with a capital ‘R’”—Holocaust Revisionism. This kind of revisionism, sparked by the Committee on Open Debate on the Holocaust and the Institute for Historical Review in California, proposes that the World War II Holocaust never really happened or was exaggerated for political reasons.

The copy for an advertisement by these organizations, run in news columns of OSU’s student newspaper, The Lantern, asserts that Nazis had no “policy to exterminate the Jewish people (or anyone else) by putting them to death in gas chambers or by killing them through abuse or neglect.” Holocaust Revisionists also maintain that the figure of six million Jewish deaths is an irresponsible exaggeration, and that no execution chambers existed in any camp in Europe which was under German control.

The community’s response to the statement was fast and furious: some people disagreed with the groups’ stance on the Holocaust but applauded The Lantern’s printing the controversial material. Freedom of speech applies to everyone, they reasoned, and the groups would be discredited once people read the outrageous statements for themselves. Many others, however, were enraged that the paper ran the information at all, arguing that providing a forum for the groups was tantamount to promoting them.

A campus protest involved not only Jewish and minority organizations, but fraternities and sororities, the campus ministry, and other students, faculty, and staff. The issue was covered by local media, and the CBS news show “48 Hours” sent a correspondent and film crew to cover the controversy for a segment on hate speech. In an opinion piece published by the Lantern, President E. Gordon Gee said, “There is a distinct difference between honest ‘revisionism’ and insidious fabrication.” He added that “Holocaust Revisionism should not be dignified through paid advertising.”

“In the opinion of many historians, this is revisionism without the use of facts,” says Lynch. chairperson and professor of history at Ohio State. Other historians are less polite. Comments range from “wackos” to “beyond the pale.” Michael J. Hogan, professor of history, suggests that Holocaust Revisionism is based on “grand lies.” The organizations “deny as fact one of the most brutal events of the twentieth century,” he adds.

Historians do not regard Holocaust Revisionism as serious scholarship, says Michael Berkowitz, assistant professor of history. Berkowitz studies modern Jewish history, has written one book on Zionist culture early in this century, and teaches a course, “The Holocaust; Destruction of European Jewry, 1933 to 1945.” During winter quarter he was in Israel, doing research for a book on the Zionist movement from 1914 to 1933.

“It’s dangerous to be generous to Holocaust Revisionism,” says Berkowitz. “An overwhelming body of evidence points to the fact that millions of Jews were killed in the Holocaust,” he says. “Literally miles of documents captured from the Germans support this conclusion. We still have several thousand eyewitnesses—not just Jews, but allied soldiers and military personnel who saw the physical evidence for themselves. One doesn’t have to exaggerate.”

Maps from the era, for example, show whole communities of Jews that ceased to exist, Berkowitz notes. And German records show that trains full of people went continually from Jewish population centers to the death camps, and all returned empty.

There is still legitimate debate, however, over how many people died in the Holocaust, says Berkowitz. Initial estimates included figures supplied by Communist officials and may, in fact, have been inflated. Recently, Holocaust scholars looked at new figures and scaled down estimates of deaths at Auschwitz from 4 million to between 1.1 million and 1.5 million.

The total number of Holocaust victims is probably between 5 million and 6 million, says Berkowitz. In the book Unanswered Questions, edited by French historian François Furet, an elaborate formula is used based on records, population figures from before and after the war, and estimated birth rates. The conclusion: the total Holocaust toll was 5.1 million. So, according to Berkowitz, the claim that the Holocaust did not occur is “like an astronomer saying the moon is made of green cheese.”

Still, historians can debate how and why it happened and even how many victims were involved. Of interest, says Berkowitz, is a theory that Hitler did not initially plan a wholesale slaughter. “Hitler’s idea was to deport large numbers of Jews to other countries and thereby to weaken those countries,” Berkowitz says. “When Hitler saw that no other country was willing to accept masses of Jews, the pogrom turned into the Holocaust. It may very well have been improvised, and we can question at what point it turned into an effort to totally destroy all Jews under the Nazis’ control.”

—D.T.

Ohio State Quest, Summer 1992/13
Jewish ‘Crystal Night’ remembered on Oval

By Danielle Rogers
Lantern staff writer

A crowd of people huddled together in the cold, their faces illuminated by the tiny, white candles each of them held. They listened solemnly as readings and prayers were chanted, each making a promise to remember an event in history that never should have happened.

The 250 students were gathered on the Oval to remember Kristallnacht, or “Crystal Night”, the night Nazi troops burned and looted Jewish homes and businesses in Germany.

The troops attacked the Jews in retaliation for the assassination of a German embassy secretary. The official was killed by a Jewish boy who wanted to avenge his parents’ exile by the Nazi regime.

“This should have set alarms ringing around the world. Instead, people turned their backs and allowed the next four years to happen,” Jacob Dobres, of the Hillel Foundation, said.

Nov. 9, 1938 is often remembered as the “Night of Broken Glass”. Throughout the event, students reenacted the sounds of that night by breaking glass in a confined area during the presentation of poetry and songs.

A sign bearing the year 1938 was ignited while the congregation chanted the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead.

“At Kristallnacht commemorations that are going on in Europe, yesterday and today, there have been disruptions, which with all the anti-Semitism going on in Germany in particular right now. It’s just more proof that something like this can happen,” Dobres said.

“You saw the Republican National Convention. Something like this could happen in our country,” said David Casto, an English and German major from Canal Winchester.

“I’m not Jewish, but I live in Germany,” said Lynne Miles-Paul, a women’s studies graduate student. “It’s very important for me to remember because I feel it’s inevitable that it will happen again-1938 is 1992.”
Victims of Holocaust remembered in vigil

By Amy Keller
Lantern staff writer

If you visited the Oval on Sunday, you might have heard barking dogs, someone practicing the cello or the names of thousands of victims of the Holocaust being read aloud.

The 24-hour vigil on the Oval, during which members of various campus organizations read names from a list of Holocaust victims, was the first phase of Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The purpose of the name reading was to show that during a 24-hour period, only a fraction, about 10 thousand, of the 11 million names of Holocaust victims can be read, said Jacob Dobrera, a member of the OSU Holocaust Remembrance Council, which organized the event.

Dobrera said the vigil is also an attempt to educate people.

"It's fifty years after the Holocaust now and the people that were in the camps and managed to survive are getting up in years. It's going to be up to our generation to make sure that everyone knows what happened in the '40s and '50s in Germany," Dobrera said.

The worldwide theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day is "never again," said Jeff Feiertag, also a member of the Holocaust Remembrance Council.

"With situations like that in the Balkans, it's just a reminder that we have a long way to go," Feiertag said.

Dobrera, who is a sophomore political science major from Mayfield Heights, said the climate at Ohio State for understanding of the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and hatred is horrible.

"A generation ago it seems they (people) wanted to forget, now it seems a lot of them don't want to know," Feiertag added.

Ivan Weisz, a doctoral student in mathematics who was born in Hungary, attended the vigil and read some names from the list.

Weisz said he decided to attend because he is concerned about the situation in Bosnia today. He said the same thing is happening there that happened in Europe 40 years ago.

Weisz added that he is also concerned and frightened by the hatred shown against certain people, like gay and lesbians, in this country.

A pictorial display from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, entitled "Courage To Remember," was displayed on the Oval during the vigil. Through words and photographs, the posters depicted scenes from Nazi concentration camps.

Many of the photographs showed men, women and children being shot, herded and bulldozed into graves by Nazis.

One photograph featured a student, a young Jewish boy standing against a blackboard in a Nazi-run school. His eyes are cast downward as the instructor teaches the class what is written on the blackboard: "The Jew is our greatest enemy. Protect yourself from Jews."

"I just don't understand how something like this could happen," Brackett said. "It's sick."

"This kind of stuff could happen any time. It happens today, like over in Yugoslavia," Atenbach said. He was reading a book and enjoying the weather when he decided to check out the exhibit and the vigil.

"It's a nice day out. I guess it's not so nice of a day for some people in other parts of the world," Atenbach said.

Dobrera said the pictorial exhibit should not have just focused on Jews. "If I could change anything, I would have it more focused on the overall victims of the Holocaust. While we have to remember the Jew, we still have to remember that six million Jews were murdered and another five million Gypsies, homosexuals, political prisoners also were murdered," he said.

"It's so hard to understand that number, 11 million," Dobrera said.

The vigil was one of a few organized events commemorating the Holocaust.

Another part of the Holocaust Remembrance Day program included the lighting of memorial candles in fraternities, sororities and residence halls around campus on April 17.

On April 19, at 8 p.m., in the Ohio Union Conference Theater, former U.S. Justice Department prosecutor John Loftus will give a lecture entitled, "Unholy Trinity...The Vatican, the Nazis, and American Politics."

According to a press release, Loftus will talk about how allied intelligence secretly recruited and protected Nazi war criminals.

This year's Holocaust Remembrance Day program was sponsored by the Holocaust Remembrance Council, the Brazil Brith Hillel Foundation and the Council on Student Affairs.
OSU student making sure people remember Holocaust

By Mary Stephens
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Since Jeff Feiertag was a child, he’s known of the Holocaust and heard people say reassuringly, “They won’t let it happen again.”

He often wondered, “Who are ‘they’?”

He found his answer looking in a mirror.

Feiertag, an Ohio State University sophomore majoring in history, helped organize Yom HaShoah, a Holocaust Remembrance Day, yesterday on campus.

“Since I was a little boy, I’ve had a sort of bizarre passion for studying this,” Feiertag said. At OSU, his academic focus has been on World War II and the Nazi policies that led to the extermination of 6 million Jews and millions of other people the Nazis designated as undesirables.

Feiertag, of Columbus’ East Side, plans to teach about the Holocaust on a college level and to speak publicly about it.

“I decided, I’ll be ‘they,’” he said. “I have to do whatever I can to make sure it never happens again.”

Yesterday’s observance, a 24-hour vigil on the Oval, was sponsored by the Holocaust Remembrance Council, the B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation and the OSU Council on Student Affairs.

The Holocaust council formerly was known as Children of Holocaust Survivors. Feiertag said.

The vigil ends at 12:30 p.m. today.

As students yesterday basked in the warm April sunshine or whizzed by on inline skates, volunteers from several campus

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organizations took turns reading names of people who died in the Holocaust.

Posters telling of the Holocaust and the fate of the Jews during the war lined one sidewalk, which was emblazoned with names of concentration and death camps, written in washable sidewalk chalk.

"We lucked out with the weather," one organizer said. "A lot of people are out, and they see the display and come over to see what it's about."

Many were supportive, some wanted to argue about Israeli politics, and some others challenged the need for a memorial.

"One woman asked why we should remember," Feiertag said. "I said we have a duty and a responsibility. Can it happen again? Yes. Will it? Not if enough people work to make sure we never forget."

The memorial event is to continue today with a speech at 8 p.m. by John Loftus, a former federal prosecutor. He will discuss the protection of Nazi war criminals by Allied intelligence.

Loftus will speak at the Ohio Union Conference Theater, 1793 N. High St.
Holocaust expert speaks at commemoration

By Michelle Herron

Nazi war criminals were recruited and harbored by Allied intelligence agencies following World War II, said an expert on the Nazi Holocaust in a lecture Monday.

John Loftus, a former United States Justice Department prosecutor, was a guest speaker for The Holocaust Remembrance Council's Holocaust Commemoration.

While serving as a liaison to the NATO intelligence agency, Loftus said he stumbled across classified Holocaust files. He said the files held information that proved that Allied intelligence knew every detail of what was happening in the concentration camps.

The three greatest evils in this world are communism, fascism and indifference, Loftus said.

He said the classified files, which were not to be declassified until after the year 2000, linked the United States, Britain and the Vatican in a web of intelligence.

According to Loftus, the British Intelligence Agency asked the pope for assistance in evacuating ex-Nazis from Germany.

"Monasteries, convents and safe houses were established to house the Nazis, he said."

"The Nazi recruiting program was one of the biggest screw-ups in American history," Loftus said. "We were embarrassed, so it was swept under the rug."

After discovering the files, Loftus said he quit his job and decided to write a book on his findings.

He said the government declassified the files when they learned of his intentions.

"I was very proud of my country," Loftus said.

The Holocaust was not a racial or religious issue as everyone thinks, he said. "The Jews were envied for their literacy."

Loftus said as long as society tends to fear people who are intelligent and hard workers, these atrocities could happen again.

"I condemn any nationality, group or cause who justifies the slaughter of babies," said Loftus. "They are my enemy."

It is important that people realize that the Holocaust was an important part of history so these events will never be repeated, said Jacob Dobres, chair of the Holocaust Remembrance Council.
OSU remembers deaths of Holocaust victims

By Adena Washington
Lantern staff writer

Thursday was Holocaust Remembrance Day, and a group of special people are not going to let the world forget it.

Ohio State students, faculty and staff gathered at the Oval with members of the Hillel Foundation and the Holocaust Remembrance Council for a 24-hour vigil to keep the memory of Holocaust victims alive.

Volunteers read aloud the names of people who perished during the Holocaust, in which six million Jewish people died. Five million others were killed because they were gypsies, Catholics, homosexuals or handicapped.

"Anyone can stop by to read names, you don't have to be Jewish," said Jeff Feiertag, chairman of the Holocaust Remembrance Council.

The names are being read from a German publication called the Gedenkbuch, which has more than 1,600,000 names of people who died during the Holocaust. There are only two copies of this book in Ohio.

As part of the remembrance ceremony, yahrzeit candles are being burned in the windows of dorms, and fraternity and sorority houses. The candles are the Jewish symbol to memorialize the dead.

"We want to educate people, let them know that it was not just a Jewish thing. With this vigil, it is our goal to reach as much of the community as possible," Feiertag said.

For Joseph Kohane, executive director of the Hillel Foundation, the memorial service is all too meaningful. Kohane's parents were survivors of the Holocaust.

"I am a child of Holocaust survivors, so this is all very vivid to me because, except for my immediate relatives, all my family was destroyed in the Holocaust," Kohane said.

Kohane said even though so many died, they have not been forgotten because they are alive in the hearts of the survivors.

"Jews celebrate all the terrific things that happen in our history, but we also celebrate the painful," Kohane said. "We are here to connect with the past, partly to be instructed to the future, to express sadness, to be with others of our kind so we can share this pain together."

Amanda Banchek, a sophomore, said "If I could reach everyone who walked past this vigil, I would want to make them realize how important it is to remember the people who died just because of the hatred and prejudice. I would want to make them realize (this), because if we are not careful, I think the Holocaust could happen again," Banchek said.

Dan Gitter, 10, takes his turn reading out loud the names of the people who died in the Holocaust while one of his classmates looks on. The kids were on a fieldtrip from the Beth Tikvah Sunday school class to help read the names. The words written on the sidewalk are the names of the concentration camps.
HOLOCAUST DEAD REMEMBERED AT OSU

Ohio State University students Adam Raskin, left, and Amanda Bancheck, middle, light candles in memory of the Holocaust dead as Randi Abrams, program director of the campus Hillel Foundation, watches. Yesterday, Hillel Foundation members and university students joined for the start of a 24-hour memorial vigil on the OSU campus. See a related story on Page 3A.
Vigil commemorates Holocaust victims

By Lori Axelrod
Lantern staff writer

B2992 is not a course at the Ohio State University. B2992 is the number Murray Ebner will never forget. It is the number the Nazis branded on his arm during the Holocaust.

At age 13, the Nazis in Poland took Ebner from his parents and three brothers. He was the first one taken from his family and the only one to survive.

More than 50 years later, Ebner, a Columbus resident, still remembers the pain he endured.

The Hillel Foundation remembered Holocaust victims like Ebner, Wednesday, with its annual 24-hour vigil on the Oval.

“We set up a tent, light candles and we write down on the sidewalk, not all the names, but a representative list of the concentration camps,” said Randi Abrams, program director for the Hillel Foundation. “We start reading for 24 hours, the names of people who died.”

“This is the sanctioned day every year when we commemorate the Holocaust,” she said.

Holocaust Remembrance always happens the week before Israel’s independence day. This will be the 47th anniversary of the modern state of Israel, Abrams said.

She said the reading of the names caused many emotions.

“It is a very strange sensation when you read these names and you come across someone’s name who is like your grandmother’s name or your aunt’s name, and you stop for a second and it really brings home how real it was,” Abrams said. “These people went to work, cooked dinner, played with dolls, and were totally wiped out.”

Aaron Evenchik, student coordinator of the vigil, said they were remembering the 6 million who died during the Holocaust.

“If we don’t remember, then history will repeat itself,” Evenchik said. “I don’t ever want to feel that we are dwelling on it, and if as Jews, all we can identify with being Jewish is the Holocaust, then it is going to be tough for the next generation because it is going to be so long in the past.”

Anne Federman, a freshman, said she took part in the vigil to remember the many family members she lost during the Holocaust.

“It’s important for me every year to either light a candle or do something with my grandparents who are still alive to remember the family we lost,” Federman said. “To see a book with thousands of names makes it more real, but I am proud to say that I took a part in it.”

The vigil is not solely aimed at remembering the Jewish people who perished in the Holocaust, Abrams said.

“Jews were targeted specifically by Hitler, but Hitler also targeted gays and lesbians and disabled people and communists as well were on his list, anyone who didn’t fit into his mold,” she said.

Lauren Kash, a freshman from New York, said the reading of the names in the Oval brought out mixed emotions.

“Had family members who died in the Holocaust, so I thought it would be a good thing to read names,” Kash said. “It made me feel good to read and sad to know all these people died in the Holocaust.”
Anne Federman, a freshman from Illinois, participate in the Hillel Foundation's annual 24-hour vigil for Holocaust victims on the Oval Wednesday.
OSU professors educate students on Holocaust, deny 'Nazi point of view'

By Lauren Freedman
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State professors who teach courses in Holocaust education try to make clear that the systematic destruction of millions of Jews during World War II actually happened.

Issues concerning Holocaust education have been continually debated for years.

According to the Washington Post, more than three months ago U.S. House of Rep. Speaker Newt Gingrich fired House historian Christina Jeffrey, because in 1986 she said a junior high school Holocaust curriculum did not adequately reflect what she called "the Nazi point of view." This way of thinking is known as the revisionist theory.

Several OSU instructors supported Gingrich's decision and said the theory is ridiculous.

"She is someone who was picked for her politics—she's not a scholar," said Michael Berkowitz, a history professor who teaches History 264, which educates students on the circumstances and events leading to the Holocaust.

He challenges students to think more analytically, critically and historically about the Jewish people and the conditions that made the Holocaust possible.

"In the notion of giving the Nazi perspective. It's absurd," he said. "It's not a part of scholarly discourse. It's completely off."

Berkowitz warns his students with a few striking words in his syllabus that the course adopts the position of the Council of the American Historical Association (AHA), which "strongly deplores the publicly reported attempts to deny the fact of the Holocaust."

Berkowitz's class digs deeply into the history of the Jews from ancient to present times.

"In the academic world, we try and teach from a historical perspective," he said. "People who believe in these things (the revisionist theory) wouldn't come to this class."

Professor Alan Beyrichen, who taught History 264 Autumn Quarter, teaches nineteenth and twentieth century German history, German 618.01 and 618.02.

"Millions of people were involved in the Holocaust," Beyrichen said. "I think it should be touched in each subject I teach, even Western Civilization."

"Most students are interested in learning about the information, but also why it happened," he said. "They're not content with just 'what' and neither am I."

Beyrichen said now is the time to learn about the Holocaust because there are still many living survivors.

"Survivors, as well as perpetrators, are all dying off now. It's all a matter of time," he said.

Professor Dagmar Lorenz, who teaches German 399 - Holocaust in Film, said she does not believe the Holocaust happened by accident and tries to make that clear to her students.

The course is taught in the framework of the German Department and crosses with the Jewish Studies program, Lorenz said.

She focuses on film, books, poetry, novels, and critical studies, originally produced by Germans or in the German language.

She said there is a diverse cross-section of students with various points of view that are expressed in the class.

"Normally discussions are most civilized and peaceful, but once in a while there's a right wing extremist view," Lorenz said.

"I didn't deal with the German perspective," Payne said. "Frankly, there's not much a perspective to deal with."

"Jewish students are more aware of the Holocaust because it has been stressed as a Jewish topic to them," Payne said.

"No one said it didn't happen, but most of the students, even the Jewish ones, were lacking in Jewish knowledge—they knew the word 'Holocaust' and the number 'six million,'" he said.

Jason Payne, a graduate student teaching in the Yiddish Department, said showing documentary footage in class is an effective way to educate students about the Holocaust. He said pictures speak louder than words.

Payne said the firing of the House historian was the right thing to do and that revisionist theories are reckless.

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By Lauren Freedman
Lantern staff writer
24-hour vigil held to honor Holocaust victims

By Mila Kurtsman
Lantern staff writer

Frankie Strober's distant cousin broke out of a Nazi concentration camp and escaped by skiing over the Alps. Strober, a junior majoring in English, will join other students today on the Oval to remember those who were not as lucky as his cousin.

For 24 hours starting at 3 p.m., Jewish Ohio State students will read the names of Holocaust victims in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The names will be taken from a book which lists more than six million victims of the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Day is a time to bring Jews together to remember the Holocaust and other acts of genocide, and to speak out against it, said Alan Frank, a senior majoring in psychology.

The annual 24-hour vigil is one of a number of Holocaust Remembrance events sponsored by Hillel, a Jewish center, this week.

Everyone will have an opportunity to take part in the ceremony, and light a memorial candle for the victims throughout the day, said Rachel Glass, chairwoman of Holocaust Remembrance Council, the organization that sponsored the event.

"It will definitely be reflecting because it's a very significant time for Jews to remember their ancestors," Strober said.

Some, like Strober, have a personal connection to the Holocaust. Others remember the event even if there is not a personal connection.

"Even if it does not touch me directly, it is part of my people and my heritage," said Michelle Cooper, a senior majoring in political science and history.

Many of the people who died in the Holocaust have no one to remember them now and it is important to acknowledge and honor them, Cooper said.

It's a historical thing," said Phillip Sommer, a junior majoring in music education. "What is never remembered is

destined to be repeated. As long as we remember it, the likelihood that it will happen again will be significantly reduced."

The ceremony is compelling and meaningful for many students who take part in it.

"It is easy to forget about every-thing else going on around the Oval and completely focus on the ceremony," Sommer said.

Hearing the names of the Holocaust victims being read suddenly makes the enormous number of people who perished a reality, said Noam Manory, a senior majoring in engineering.

"It brings together a younger generation whose parents maybe were not in the Holocaust but whose grandparents were," said Liz Munka, a senior majoring in English. "It allows us to remember it as well."

It is important to educate people and make them aware of what happened during the Holocaust, said Natalie Lomazov, a senior majoring in medical dietetics.

"There are still people out there who say it never happened," she said. "The Holocaust survivors are dying and soon no one is going to be there to share their personal experiences. It is important to spread the word so that it doesn't happen again."
A day of remembrance

Darren Brown, a freshman from Chicago, reads names from the Gedenkbuch, a register of German Jews killed during the Holocaust, on the Oval Monday evening.
Holocaust survivor speaks on the horrors of war

By Angel U. Umez Jr.
Lantern staff writer

After being silent about the Holocaust for over 50 years, Holocaust survivor Zev Kedem shared with the community Tuesday the extraordinary true story of survival, courage and horror that inspired Steve Spielberg's award-winning Schindler's List.

Kedem, a 65-year-old documentary filmmaker who consulted on and appeared in the movie, recalled his childhood years spent during the time when millions of Jews suffered under the German Third Reich.

"I want to try to share the experience so that it should not repeat itself through an awareness of the broader community," Kedem, a Polish Jew, said.

Recently nominated as "Speaker of the Year" by the National Association for Campus Activity, Kedem stated he was lucky to be one of the 1,100 Shindlerjuden (Schindler Jews) whose life was saved by a very compassionate and unselfish man—Oskar Schindler—who was a Nazi industrialist.

"I was eight years old when the Nazis entered Krakow and started to take away the Jews," Kedem said, who was sent to six different concentration camps from ages eight to 11. "I lived at a time when concepts included killing more than 1.5 million children, the concept that a child did not have a right to exist in this kind of situation...weird situations like this."

The Nazi regime's main goal was to break apart a family because without a family the individual is helpless and much easier to control," Kedem said.

Kedem remembered the amount of suffering his kind endured during those times, when "our only hope was a piece of bread and a piece of soup."

"We received about 20 to 30 percent of what most people consider nutrition today," he said.

"Wartime situations like this caused Kedem to remain silent, and said it is typical for a survivor like him to feel guilty and not have the conviction to speak out to people about their experiences. He said he believes it was a very degrading experience and the only chance of survival during that time was to accept subordination.

"Now I consider it a terrible traumatic experience and I do it for the laughs," Kedem said. "But laughing and crying are two very close emotions."

He was freed on May 3, 1945 by American soldiers. Kedem can remember the time when he walked out into the streets, noticed a colored soldier and realized "a minority could not have survived under the German rule and that I was finally liberated."

"Even after the lessons of the Holocaust should have been learned," Kedem said. countries like Cambodia and Bosnia show us "the value of life" must be remembered.

"I want people not to forget and to reawaken our commitment to humanity from my experiences," Kedem said.

Holocaust survivor Zev Kedem recounts to more than 200 people the survival story that inspired "Schindler's List" in the Ohio Union Ballroom Tuesday.